Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 AID-20 EB-11 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25

NEA-11 RSC-01 PC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 SAM-01 AGR-20 INT-08

COME-00 TRSE-00 IGA-02 SS-20 NSC-10 L-03 ABF-01 OMB-01

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TAGS: AORG, UNDP, EAID

SUBJ: UNDP 17TH GOVERNING COUNCIL ITEM 14 ASSISTANCE TO DROUGHT STRICKEN AREA OF ETHIOPIA

REF: USUN 283

1. UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL JAN 28 CONSIDERED QUESTION OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA IN VIEW OF SEVERE DROUGHT.

2. FOLLOWING EXTENDED DISCUSSION, COUNCIL ADOPTED AMENDED NETHERLANDS DRAFT DECISION (A) REQUESTING ADMINISTRATOR (1) TO MAKE IMMEDIATE PROVISION FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE REQUIRED FOR SPRING PLANTING SEASON, (2) TO TAKE APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO ASSIST IEG ON SHORT TERM RECOVERY PROGRAM, (3) TO PREPARE IN COOPERATION WITH HEADS OF OTHER UN BODIES A COMPREHENSIVE REPORT TO BE USED AS BASIS FOR FORMULTATION OF IMMEDIATE, MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM RECOVERY PROGRAMS, AND (4) TO REPORT TO 18TH SESSION ON SITUATION IN ETHIOPIA, ACTIONS TAKEN BY UNDP AND OTHER UN BODIES, AND HIS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADDITIONAL ACTION AND (B) SUGGESTING THAT ECOSOC AT SPRING SESSION CONSIDER QUESTION OF UNCLASSIFIED

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ASSISTANCE TO DROUGHT-STRICKEN AREAS OF ETHIOPIA ON A PRIORITY

BASIS.

- 3. TURNING TO BROADER PROBLEM OF DROUGHT IN AFRICA, GOVERNING COUNCIL ALSO ADOPTED AMENDED KUWAIT DRAFT DECISION REQUESTING ADMINISTRATOR, CONSIDERING THAT DROUGHT AFFECTING ETHIOPIA AND SUDANO-SAHELIAN REGION SEEMS TO BE PART OF PROFOUND ECOLOGICAL DISTURBANCE AFFECTING AN INCREASING NUMBER OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND IN CONSULTATION WITH GOVERNMENTS AND UN BODIES CONCERNED, TO INVESTIGATE EXTENT OF DROUGHT AND ITS MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM IMPLICATIONS, TO PREPARE AN ACTION PROGRAM, AND TO REPORT TO 19TH SESSION ON ACTION TAKEN.
- 4. VIRTUALLY ALL MEMBERS OF GOVERNING COUNCIL SPOKE DURING FULL DAY OF DISCUSSION TO EXTEND SYMPATHY TO ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE AND TO SUPPORT ASSISTANCE BY UNDP. WHILE THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE PROVIDED IN THE FORM OF SEEDS, TRACTORS, ETC. TO MAKE SPRING PLANTING POSSIBLE, SEVERAL DELEGATIONS EMPHASIZED THAT UNDP WAS NOT AN EMERGENCY RELIEF ORGANIZATION AND THAT ITS PRIMARY ROLE SHOULD BE TO PROVIDE MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM ASSISTANCE IN RESTORING ECOLOGICAL BALANCE.
- 5.U.S. DEL SUGGESTED THAT, IN RECOGNITION OF FINANCIAL RESTRAINTS, ASSISTANCE BE ACCOMMODATED WITHIN EXISTING BUDGET. HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT PROJECTS CONCENTRATE ON LONGER RANGE PROBLEMS, WITH SHORT-TERM PROJECTS COORDINATED WITH UN DISASTER RELIEF COORDINATOR. U.S. WOULD SUPPORT DECISION ALONG LINES OF NETHERLANDS DRAFT, AND WOULD CONSIDER SYMPATHETICALLY AMENDMENTS (CALLING FOR IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE) IF THEY DID NOT ALTER THE CHARACTER OF UNDP ASSISTANCE.
- 6. KUWAIT DRAFT RESOLUTION WAS RESPONSIVE TO COMMENTS BY SUDAN AND OTHER AFRICANS THAT DROUGHT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ON REGIONAL OR EVEN GLOBAL SCALE AND THAT A PERMANENT SOLUTION MUST BE FOUND. WHILE LANGUAGE OF DECISION LIMITED TO AFRICAN REGION, IT WAS AGREED THAT IT SHOULD BE INTERPRETED BROADLY TO INCLUDE AFFECTED NEIGHBORING AREAS SUCH AS TWO YEMENS.
- 7. RESPONDING TO INTERVENTIONS, DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR PATEL STATED THAT DESPITE NOMENCLATURE AS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, UNDP HAS ROLE IN EMERGENCIES. SOMETHING HAD TO BE DONE IN CASE OF UNCLASSIFIED

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EMERGENCIES TO RECAPTURE DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND, IN CASE OF ETHIOPIA, IT WAS NECESSARY TO PROVIDE SEED, TRACTORS OR WHATEVER NEEDED TO ENSURE THAT NEXT CROP GROWS AS WELL AS POSSIBLE. UNDP WOULD TAKE SUCH MEASURES AS WELL AS LONG TERM MEASURES. WITH REGARD TO LONG TERM, OPPORTUNITY MUST BE TAKEN TO LOOK AT LARGER PROGLEMS. WITH REGARD TO MONEY, THERE WERE FOUR POSSIBLE SOURCES: (1) ETHIOPIAN 1PF, WHICH ALREADY HEAVILY COMMITTED; (2) EHTIOPIAN SHARE OF \$35 MILLION IN SPECIAL

FUNDS FOR LEAST DEVELOPED, WHICH AVAILABILITY WAS ALSO LIMITED, (3) AFRICAN REGIONAL IPF, WHICH MIGHT PROVIDE FUNDS FOR LONG TERM PROGRAMS, AND (4) PROGRAM RESERVE. PATEL WAS NOT SANGIUME THAT SHORT TERM NEEDS COULD BE MET WITHOUT SPECIAL MEASURES UNDER PROGRAM RESERVE. HE HAD NO DOUBT THAT THE COUNCIL WOULD SANCTION USE OF FUNDS FROM PROGRAM RESERVE IF THE ADMINISTRATOR FOUND IT ADVISABLE TO REQUEST APPROVAL OF SUCH ACTION AT THE 18TH SESSION.

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